

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227085

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 227085 ACTION HONG KONG 23 SEP 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227085

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, EEWT, EGEN, PFOR

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INTEREST IN TRADE WITH INDOCHINA

REF: HONG KONG 11090

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AS YOU KNOW, AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (AMCHAM) HAVE BEEN USEFUL PARTNERS WITH WHOM U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED CLOSELY OVER THE YEARS IN FURTHERING AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN EAST ASIA. AT THE SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE FULLY PRIVATE CHARACTER OF THESE BODIES AND WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY WISH TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR VIEWS OR RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE DO AGREE THAT THE AMCHAMS SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF BASIS FOR OUR PRESENT POLICY TOWARD COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. IN THIS REGARD SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN YOUR SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING.

2. IN HIS JUNE 18 SPEECH BEFORE THE JAPAN SOCIETY SECRETARY KISSINGER DEALT DIRECTLY WITH THE ISSUE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GROUPS IN PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON, STATING: "NEW REGIMES HAVE COME TO POWER IN ASIA IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THEY HAVE FLOUTED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL

STANDARDS, AND THAT WE CANNOT IGNORE. BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THEIR CONDUCT TOWARD THEIR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD US." WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THIS GENERAL POLICY WE HAVE INSTITUTED ASSETS AND EXPORT CONTROLS WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO STABILIZE AND CLOSELY MONITOR OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THESE NEW REGIMES AS WE ASSESS THEM ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ACTIONS. SPECIFICALLY, WE INSTITUTED CONTROLS TO KEEP CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE ASSETS UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION FROZEN FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE SATISFACTION OF PRIVATE CLAIMS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR LOSSES OF PROPERTY IN THOSE AREAS; AND TO DENY THESE COUNTRIES THE BENEFITS OF TRADING WITH THE U.S. ALTHOUGH AS THE SECRETARY SAID WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PAST, TO DATE WE HAVE SEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE ACTIONS, INCLUDING FOR EXAMPLE ANY MOVE TO RELEASE THE AMERICANS STILL HELD CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM, WHICH WOULD INDICATE ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT BY THE NEW REGIME IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD US. IN THIS LIGHT, WE CONSIDER IT TO BE BOTH REASONABLE AND PRUDENT TO MAINTAIN CONTROLS OVER OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES.

3. GIVEN PRESENT CONDITIONS, WE BELIEVE USG SUPPORTED PRIVATE MISSION PROPOSED PARA. 4 REFTL IS INADVISABLE. IN FACT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT POLICY IS TO STRONGLY DISCOURAGE ALL TRAVEL OF U.S. CITIZENS TO EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH VIETNAM AND U.S. PASSPORTS NOW HAVE FORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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RESTRICTIONS AGAINST USE IN EITHER AREA. NO AMERICANS HAVE TRAVELLED TO SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN APRIL AND WE BELIEVE THAT GIVEN THE UNSETTLED CONDITIONS PREVAILING THERE AMERICAN CITIZENS SHOULD COMPLETELY AVOID THE AREA. (FYI: SHOULD DESPITE OUR WARNINGS U.S. CITIZEN BUSINESSMEN WISH TO ATTEMPT TRAVEL PRIVATELY TO NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA

THEY MUST APPLY TO DIRECTOR PASSPORT OFFICE FOR REQUIRED
WAIVER OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND TO TREASURY'S OFFICE
OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROLS FOR LICENSE TO COVER ANY
EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING COST OF TRAVEL WITHIN COUNTRY.)

4. TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ADDITIONAL, MORE DETAILED BACKUP
MATERIAL FOR THIS AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH LOCAL
AMCHAM, WE ARE ADDING YOU AS ADDRESSEE ON MESSAGE
PREPARED FOR USE IN COCOM SUMMARIZING THE NATURE OF
CONTROLS AND MAILING YOU COPIES OF TESTIMONY ON CONTROLS
MADE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILLER BEFORE
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE
EARLIER THIS YEAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. REGARDING QUESTION RAISED PARA. 5 REFTEL,#YOU
SHOULD INFORM MR. SAUBOLLE THAT UNDER PRESENT POLICIES
THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE USG GRANTING A LICENSE
FOR THE TYPE OF DIRECT SALE OF AMERICAN COTTON WHICH
HE CONTEMPLATES. ROBINSON
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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